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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/064,964	09/04/2002	Henry Thomas Ubik	201-1007 FAM	7009
28549	7590	02/06/2006	EXAMINER	
KEVIN G. MIERZWA ARTZ & ARTZ, P.C. 28333 TELEGRAPH ROAD, SUITE 250 SOUTHFIELD, MI 48034			LANEAU, RONALD	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3627	

DATE MAILED: 02/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/064,964

Applicant(s)

UBIK ET AL.

Examiner

Ronald Laneau

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 September 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-10 are presented for examination.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Strong (US 6,006,148).

As per claims 8-10, Strong discloses a method for automated check-in of a rental vehicle having an active transmitter at a rental vehicle site having a service area defined by an antenna communication system and a server, said method comprising the steps of: communicating a vehicle identification number of said rental vehicle upon said rental vehicle entering said predefined service area to said server; communicating a fuel level of said rental vehicle to said server; and communicating a mileage of said rental vehicle to said server, the step of determining necessary service procedures for said rental vehicle upon check-in; the step of identifying said rental vehicle for preparation to be rented again (see figs 1 and 11).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Song et al (US 2003/0163233 A1) in view of Carter (US 5,563,579).

As per claims 1 and 6, Song discloses a method for inventory management of a plurality of transportation vehicles wherein each vehicle has an active RF transmitter in communication with a diagnostic service bus on said vehicle (page 1, [0011] – [0012]), said method comprising the steps of: defining a service area for active transmission between said RF transmitter and a server specific to said service area; communicating data relevant to said transportation vehicle from said transmitter to said server automatically and in real time (see abstract); and determining an inventory of transportation vehicles within said predefined service area. Song does not explicitly disclose an inventory of transportation vehicles within a predefined service area but Carter discloses an inventory of vehicle within a predefined service area as claimed with the predefined service area being the location of the vehicle (col. 3, lines 14-18).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the system of inventory vehicles as taught by Carter into the system of Song because it would provide a savings in both time and labor to be able to audit the inventory automatically without the need for physically checking every vehicle.

As per claims 2-4 and 7, the system taught by Song is capable of indicating the step of communicating a time said vehicle entered said predefined service area to said Server; the step of communicating a time said vehicle left said predefined service area to said Server; and both the steps of: communicating a time said vehicle entered said predefined service area to said server;

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and communicating a time said vehicle left said predefined service area to said Server as claimed (see fig. 6).

As per claim 5, the system of Song would also determine a location of a predetermined number of vehicles having predetermined characteristics, including a destination site; and delivering said predetermined number of vehicles to said destination site due to its tracking system.

### *Conclusion*

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

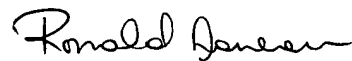
- Zimmerman et al (US 2005/0021197 A1) disclose methods and systems for communicating vehicle data.
- Ehrman et al (US 6,898,493 B2) disclose a fully automated vehicle rental system.
- Mercer et al (US 2004/0088228 A1) disclose an automobile identification labeling and tracking system.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronald Laneau whose telephone number is (571) 272-6784. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 8:30am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ronald Laneau  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3627

2/2/06

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